

Yorkshire **DALES** review

- Rewilding in the Dales
- The Future of the National Parks
- Welcome a New Chair
- Members' Survey results
- Payment by Results for Dales Farmers

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Friends of the
DALES
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

CONTENTS Summer 2019 : Issue 147

Climbing Gordale Scar	3	The Hills Are Alive	13
Every Child to Experience a National Park	4	Looking to the Future of the National Parks	14
Passing on the Baton	5	Clapham School is Saved	15
Welcome to Bruce McLeod	5	Landscapes and Art	16
Results of Members' Survey 2019	6	Handbell Ringers in the Dales	17
Where the Wild Things Are	8	News and New Business Members	18
A Green Transport Revolution	10	Events	19
A Tribute to Allan Butterfield	11	New DalesBus Routes	20
Payment by Results for Dales Farmers	12		

Editor Sasha Heseltine



Editor's Letter

The big news for this issue of the Review is the announcement of Mark Corner's successor as Chair of Friends of the Dales. Meet Chair Elect Bruce McLeod on page 5. Mark assures us he's staying put as an active trustee of the society and we'll encourage him to continue to contribute on a grand scale!

Despite a damp start, it seems we have much to rejoice in this summer. By way of continuing to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the introduction of the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act, Lester Medcalf shares nostalgic memories of childhood visits to the Yorkshire Dales on page 3. Nancy Stedman, trustee, reveals how her love of the unique Dales landscape inspires her distinctive artwork on page 16.

Colin Speakman, a Vice President of Friends of the Dales, looks back at the evolution of DalesBus services over the last four decades (page 10) – and please check out the new summertime services on the back cover. Moving forward, Corinne Pluchino, Chief Executive of the Campaign for National Parks, shares her vision for the healthy future of the UK's national parks (page 14), while two new schemes for improving diversity in the Dales and supporting local farmers are examined by journalist and volunteer Lynn Leadbeater (page 8) and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Farm Conservation Adviser, Jane Le Cocq (page 12).

The results of the Members' Survey have been thoroughly analysed by trustees and staff, and the findings are published on pages 6–7. We'd like to thank all the Friends of the Dales members who took time to send their surveys back, and it's a pleasure to report that the majority of our readers are supportive of our campaigning work and of the magazine. Again, many thanks are due to trustee Dr Tony Smith and his wife Janet for their hard work producing the figures.

And last but not least, we're always on the lookout for more volunteers – and this time we're looking for a new honorary treasurer. If you think you might fit the bill, or if you know anyone who might, please take a look at what the role entails on page 18.

Have a happy summer exploring and enjoying our wonderful Dales heritage, Sasha Heseltine

Yorkshire **DALES** review

Climbing Gordale Scar

As part of our celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the legislation that created national parks, Friends of the Dales member Lester Medcalf recalls his childhood trips to the Dales, and still enjoys visiting with his family today.



Gordale Scar in 1986.
Courtesy of
Lester Medcalf.

I'm a southerner. For the first 40 years of my life, I lived in Essex and since then, I've lived in Sussex. Growing up in Southend-on-Sea, the furthest north I ever went was just outside Southport to stay with friends of my mum and dad. It was great for sand dunes – and red squirrels of course.

I don't think I had heard of the Yorkshire Dales until I was doing my A Level geography lessons. Our geography master often used the Yorkshire Dales to illustrate things he told us about in the physical geography part of the course. So what do rivers and waterfalls do? How old are much of the rocks? What effect did the Ice Age have? Exactly what do mountains look like?

And as part of the course, we had a week on a geography field course – and not surprisingly our teacher took us up to the Dales, where we stayed in Grassington. I think it was the Easter holidays in 1963. Now I don't want to go over the top about the effect the Dales

had on me. I don't think it changed my life to any great extent. For example I have never thought about moving closer to the Dales so that I could spend weekends exploring. But the exposure to the outdoors certainly gave me more to think about than simply thinking about my next game of football or cricket or my next girlfriend.

I can't remember everywhere we went – and I certainly have no photos from that visit. Of course we did a number of the usual tourist-y places. Malham Cove and Tarn, Kilnsey Crag, waterfalls in Ingleton, Aysgarth, up to the top of Ingleborough for example. They were all places and activities that I had never experienced before.

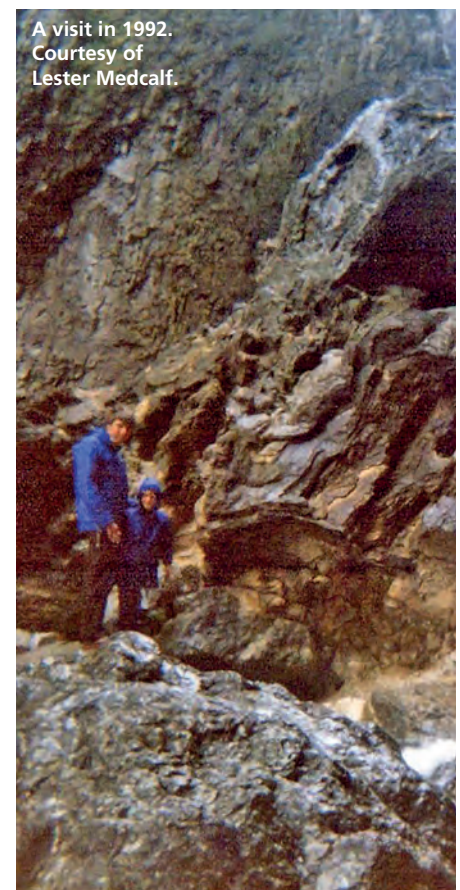
One place that really stands out for me – and I probably regard it as my favourite place in the Dales – was Gordale Scar. Walking towards it as the walls and rocks on either side get narrower and narrower and suddenly there it is. And then the teacher said we weren't going back the way we came – we were going to climb/scramble up to the top. This looked impossible with the water cascading down – how on earth are we going to climb up that? But of course we all did it and thought ourselves ever so brave and clever to do so. Packed lunch a little later near to Malham Tarn was full of our exploits.

A few years later I took the lady who was to become my wife to the Dales for a holiday (and on the same holiday she introduced me to the Lake District). The climb up Gordale Scar was of course on the agenda. She passed the test, and I'm pleased to say that she is still my wife.

A honeymoon in Grassington followed, and then three sons later it was time to introduce them to the glories of the Yorkshire Dales. We stayed in Burnsall (where I found a leaflet telling me about the Yorkshire Dales Society

– which I joined more or less there and then) and of course the climb up Gordale Scar featured once again. Of course, they thought it was impossible, but this time packed lunch by Malham Tarn was full of how clever this new generation had been.

Since then, we come up to the Dales every four or five years, but I'm afraid to say that a climb up Gordale Scar is no longer on the agenda – we simply walk to the bottom, try and work out the routes we took so long ago, and then turn round and walk back. We haven't yet introduced our grandchildren to the Dales... will they believe me when I tell them what grandma and grandad once climbed?



A visit in 1992.
Courtesy of
Lester Medcalf.

Every Child to Experience a National Park

I was disheartened to read the following in the government's 2016 *8-Point Plan for England's National Parks*: 'Today, just 10% of schoolchildren have access to outdoor learning. Furthermore, recent research suggests that up to 12% of children (1.3 million) of children UK-wide did not visit, or rarely visited natural places in the last year. In contrast, 96% of people say they want every child to experience a national park for themselves'

This eight-point plan aspired to connect young people with nature by: doubling the number of young people to experience a national park as part of National Citizen Service by 2020; creating a new package of teaching materials for schools based on national parks; and requiring national park authorities to engage directly with over 60,000 young people per year through schools visits by 2017/18.

National park authorities have already met the school visits target, and this has now been increased in the 2018 policy paper *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment to 120,000*. But is this ambitious enough? Given the dire statistics quoted above and the potentially transformative experience to a child of visiting a national park, I don't think so. So, it is pleasing to see that the Campaign for National Parks (see page 14), along with others, has called upon the government to

commit to offering all children, regardless of where they live, the opportunity to visit a national park while at school. In this 70th anniversary year of the Act of Parliament that created the national parks, it would, they argue quite rightly, honour the spirit of the 1949 Act to make this commitment.

For those of us who have been with or seen children experiencing the Yorkshire Dales, it is a wondrous thing to behold. Whether it is skipping along the footpath through Muker's hay meadows in Swaledale, watching the peregrine falcons at Malham Cove, scrambling along a limestone pavement, paddling in the plunge pool of a waterfall, experiencing an introduction to caving, or hurtling down a green lane on a bicycle, it is a joy to see the faces of young people, exhilarated in the moment. Such early experiences, as well as helping children to thrive, can foster a life-long love for the natural world and inspire the next generation to look after their environment, hopefully better than we have, and to care for their national parks.

Of course, having the ambition that every child should have the opportunity to visit a national park is easy. The challenge is to make this happen. We can hope that the Glover Review of national parks and AONBs, which received recommendations on this issue from many consultees, and is expected to make its recommendations by the end of this year, will help move this ambition forward.

In the meantime, it is pleasing to see that our Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is progressing the child-experience agenda. They have just launched a new family events programme for 2019, which offers opportunities for children to join the Ranger, Staff, and Volunteer teams to learn about and look after nature and wildlife in the national park. More significantly, the Authority is developing a new educational programme that aims to offer educational visits and resources to enable schools to include access to, and understanding of, the national park as part of their curriculum. The Authority is also working with local organisations, including a local farm, to develop their education offer for primary-school-aged children.

I would hope that Friends of the Dales can play its part in efforts to enable young people to visit, enjoy and value this special place.

Mark Corner, Chair, Friends of the Dales



Images courtesy of Mark Corner



Passing on the Baton

Who know where the time goes? It's over four years since I was privileged to be asked by trustees to chair our charity and, having agreed to fulfil the role for three years, it's now time to hand over to a new trustee.

I was looking at some notes I made on taking on the role, with thoughts of what we should be hoping to achieve during my tenure, and I'm generally pretty happy with where we've got to, although there are still plenty of opportunities and challenges on the table! I'm most satisfied that we have managed to halt the decline in membership, and indeed modestly grow numbers. Our re-brand to Friends of the Dales, a new membership leaflet, and focused promotion all helped in this regard.

I also feel that, given our modest size, we've been pretty effective campaigners and have raised our profile as a credible, authoritative voice on Dales issues. We managed the transition between editors of the Yorkshire Dales Review and I remain proud of the quality of our magazine. We developed, and have delivered reasonably well, a sound business plan and we've worked collaboratively, both internally and externally. It has been a pleasure to work with our staff Ann Shadrake and Penny Lowe, with our dedicated trustees and volunteers, and to have had the opportunity to meet many of our wonderful members.

I will continue as an active trustee and look forward to supporting Bruce McLeod, to whom I offer best wishes, as he takes on the role as chair at the AGM in September.

Mark Corner

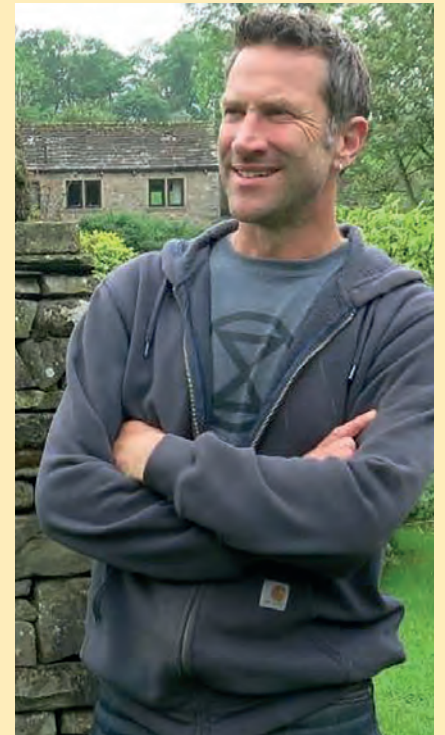
Welcome to Bruce McLeod

We are delighted to welcome Bruce McLeod as a new trustee and Chair Elect of Friends of the Dales. Bruce was introduced to us in March by Wilf Fenten, a fellow trustee who has known him for several years. Mark Corner, Chair, the trustees, volunteers and staff have all met and got to know Bruce over recent months. This led to his co-option at the June Council meeting. Bruce will formally stand for election at the AGM on 21 September 2019. Below Bruce explains a little about his background and interests.

"Originally from the UK (I was born in Scotland) I lived in the US for nearly a decade. I studied and taught at the University of Iowa, where I gained a doctorate in English and American Literature, finally publishing *The Geography of Empire in English Literature, 1580-1745* with Cambridge University Press. During this time, I also edited and redesigned a literary magazine, *The Iowa Review*. Effective communication on issues that I feel strongly about has continued with numerous letters to the *Craven Herald* as well as to other papers including *The Guardian*.

My partner, the playwright Naomi Wallace, and our three daughters moved to the Dales in 1997, where I began a career as a freelance writer for film. Our girls attended Kirkby Malham School and Skipton Girls' High School before university. When I arrived in the Dales, I was instantly enamoured with the dry-stone walls. Building walls or "throwing up" a gap, which I do whenever I can or am allowed by indulgent farmers, has been a passion ever since. What struck me about the walls, besides their beauty, was the unimaginable amount of labour that went into building them. For me, walling honours the "hands" that sculpted our landscape.

A presiding interest for me has always been the way we create, see and use space – something I explored in my book – and I



have been active in conservation on both sides of the pond. In Kentucky, I worked with a large conservation organisation called River Fields to protect undeveloped land along the Ohio River and negotiated with the state over a road-widening project. I have been a long-time board member of a small, not-for-profit zoo as well as an organic farm co-operative, both set on the family farm in Kentucky.

Appreciating the Yorkshire Dales quickly translated into an interest in local environmental issues and sustainability. I have been a committee member of CPRE for almost 20 years, specifically dealing with anti-litter campaigns. We were able, for instance, to convince a number of fish-and-chip outlets to either switch to, or include, biodegradable packaging. I have also been Chair of the Otterburn Parish Meeting for over a decade.

To protect and promote the biodiversity of the natural world as well as the vitality of the communities that shape that geography is, I believe, central to the Friends of the Dales. It is an honour to join that campaign."

Results of Members' Survey 2019



Tim Hancock, Chair of the Events, Communication and Membership Committee, reports below on the results from the Membership Survey carried out earlier in the year.

Trustees decided to offer this survey to help find out which aspects of the charity's work are most valued by members. The last survey was 10 years ago, which is too long a gap – so we will look to repeat this survey in a few years time.

The results are vital to help trustees decide where to put our resources of time and money for maximum benefit. It helps us track how we should communicate with you, especially in the era of the internet, what events are most favoured, which issues we should campaign on, how we shape the very popular Review magazine, and so much more.

Thank you to everyone who got involved, and remember you don't have to wait for the next survey to feedback your thoughts – just contact the office or talk to us at one of our many events.

The survey was sent out to 980 households and business members, and by the closing date in mid February, we had received a total of 338 completed surveys, including some via the online Survey Monkey. At over 34%, this is an excellent reply rate and is statistically significant, giving credibility to the outcome and conclusions. Full credit is due to trustee Dr Tony Smith for designing the questionnaire and analysing the hundreds of individual responses, supported by his wife Janet.

Results

Which areas of our work are most important to you?

People were asked to rank their views from 1-5. By a significant margin, campaigning was ranked as the most important aspect of our work. Second and third places went to our planning work and support for better transport. This is a great endorsement of the effort we put into these areas through our volunteer policy and planning committee, and the support we give to rural buses through our social enterprise, the Dales & Bowland CIC.

What is it that you most value about the Yorkshire Dales National Park?

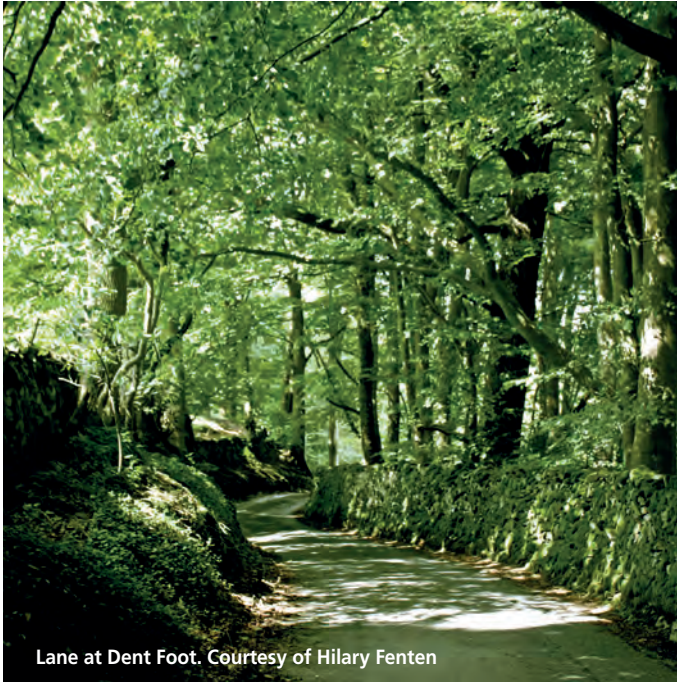
Landscape and walking scored highest here. Some lovely comments were submitted here – "Its ability to repair and renew the spirit" and "Impossible question! It's the way it all comes together in harmonious beauty and breaks your heart".

What are your main reasons for being a member of Friends of the Dales?

Here people ranked "I love the Dales and want to see it protected" as the most important reason followed by "I agree with your aims and ethos". This is a heartening response and confirms what we suspected – that whether members live close or far from the Dales, they love the area and want to see it protected.

Have you attended any of our events during the last year?

Over 20% of responses said they had attended our events in the last year. Of those that didn't, the main reason was too far/not mobile enough, which amounted to almost half of our members. Other reasons for not attending were too busy/other commitments. This is encouraging, as we put a lot of resources into planning and delivering events "with something distinctive" so that members who are able to come along really get something special out of the day.



Lane at Dent Foot. Courtesy of Hilary Fenten

What type of events should we organise in support of our charitable objectives?

Most people answering this question ranked shorter walks and talks about the Dales most highly. These have been the core of our winter programme for years. Third place went to “vibrant community” events showcasing a village and its community – these are new events that we introduced a few years ago. They do take a lot of organising – so it is great to hear that people value them.

How well do you rate the Review?

Which parts of the Review do you most look forward to?

What would you like to see more of in the Review?

Taken together, these responses provide an insight to the value members place on the quarterly magazine, which is largely put together by a volunteer team headed up by Sasha Heseltine, Editor, and Lynn Leadbeatter, Sub Editor. A phenomenal 86% of members responding by post said they read most of every issue! Feature articles, reports on campaigns and policies and the photographs were ranked as the top aspects. In contrast, biographies and book reviews scored lowest. Lots of people made specific comments such as “Anything which could improve relationship between people who live and work in the Dales and visitors. For instance discussion around possible conflict areas – access/responsible dog walking etc” and “More wildlife reports and conservation project work done in the Dales”.

The Review is a major undertaking for us and is now supplemented by regular e-news updates. If we reduced the frequency of the Review from 4 to 2 per year, would this affect your attitude to staying as a member?

In terms of the results, over 80% of members said that if we reduce the frequency of the Review, this wouldn't affect their attitude to supporting our charity. However, many commented that they would be disappointed. With hindsight, we think the way we phrased this question might have implied we were planning to stop printing the Review and only produce it as an electronic version. This is definitely not the case! We are looking at the feasibility of offering the choice of postal or electronic editions, but this needs careful research first.

How often do you use our website or Facebook page?

Only 11% of members said they regularly use our website or Facebook page, and over 60% say they never used them at all. Reasons given included lack of access to the internet or not having a computer. We do know that these options are well used by non-members – with over 4,500 people all over the world looking at our Facebook page for example – so they do have a role in raising awareness and hopefully attracting new members.

Please rate our membership admin service.

We are very pleased that almost 70% of people rated our administration support to members as “excellent”. Comments included “Always friendly, keep it up”; “Bernard has been very helpful sorting out my subs”. Other comments included “don't send out requests for membership fees to DD members” – just to note that we are obliged to do this under the Direct Debit Guarantee. A Life Member suggested that a “one-off” card rather than a new one each year would be acceptable – Penny Lowe (Administration Assistant) is looking into that.

Would you pay your subs/donation by credit/debit card over the phone if we offered that option?

Responses were fairly evenly balanced here, but with lots of members pointing out that setting up a Direct Debit is best of all options. Given there are necessary but onerous security controls involved in setting up “over the phone” payments, it's probably not the best option for a modest-sized charity anyway.

Once again, thank you to all those hundreds of members who took the trouble to reply to the questionnaire. We will keep reporting in future issues of the Review on how your views are shaping the charity's work.



Limestone boulders. Courtesy of Tim Hancock

Wolverines' release pen. Courtesy of National Trust Images – North News and Pictures Ltd



Where The Wild Things Are

The howl of the wolf echoes through Yellowstone National Park, lynx stalk the Swiss Alps and herds of bison roam the Carpathians and the Canadian Rockies. Lynn Leadbeater explains why.

Closer to home, beavers were released at Cropton Forest on the North York Moors this summer. Other species have returned to former haunts without human intervention: the rare pine marten has been caught on camera in Yorkshire and three spoonbill chicks hatched at the RSPB's Fairburn Ings reserve near Castleford in 2017. So could we see wild boar foraging in the Dales woodlands in years to come? Or is the national park a little too, well, domestic to accommodate top predators and giant herbivores?

Rewilding has become very much a buzz word in recent years, with the reintroduction of 'charismatic megafauna' – striking, large animal species with widespread popular appeal – grabbing the headlines. The term has also been used by those advocating clearing the land of people and abandoning it to natural processes.

That's a shame because in its broadest sense rewilding simply means the large-scale restoration of ecosystems to allow nature to take its course with minimal intervention. It is, in fact, a type of land management -- but one where natural processes take the lead in shaping the landscape and the habitats within it, only sometimes given a hand by the reintroduction of missing plants or animals. And following that definition, small-scale rewilding initiatives are already making a positive contribution to the biodiversity of the Dales.

The hazel dormouse had become extinct in Yorkshire but a successful reintroduction at Freeholders' Wood near Carperby in 2008 means that it once more has a secure toehold in the county. Two previous attempts to establish breeding populations near Helmsley and Masham had met with little success, but the animals fared much better when released

in the only semi-natural ancient woodland in the Dales, despite initial concerns about the small size of the site.

Working with the People's Trust for Endangered Species, Natural England and the Common Dormouse Captive Breeders Group, the national park authority set up nearly 200 nest boxes in predominantly hazel coppice. Thirty-five animals were released from London and Paignton zoos and existing woodland management practices were adapted to create a more favourable environment for them. After a second reintroduction in 2016, work began on a three-year project that involves planting hedgerows to connect the two sites and link them to a third woodland near Bolton Castle. If successful, this will create a suitable habitat three miles in length.

Once widespread throughout Britain, the hazel dormouse favours old coppices and had fallen victim to isolation of woodland, changing management practices and loss and inappropriate maintenance of hedgerows. The new arboreal highways are just one way in which the 'nature recovery networks' recommended by government can be created to link different areas, enhancing the value of the whole.

"Small changes below landscape level need to be part of an overarching strategy," says Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) senior conservation officer Tony Serjeant. "Farmers replanting former hedgerows, householders setting aside parts of their gardens for nature, highway authorities managing verges sympathetically – every little bit helps, especially if linked."

YDNPA is now working with partners including Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Yoredale Natural History Society and Kew Gardens to explore the possibility of reintroducing the burnt-tip orchid to some sites within its current and former range. Elsewhere in Wensleydale, it has launched a

national trial of a pioneering 'payment-by-results' agricultural scheme (see page 12) that is encouraging farmers to create species-rich meadows and habitats for wading birds.

Meanwhile the lowland fen surrounding Malham Tarn has benefited from the release of more than 200 water voles in 2016 and 2017. The UK's fastest declining land mammal has already disappeared from about 90% of rivers and streams where it was once common. Threats to its survival include predation by mink, housing development on flood plains and pollution of waterways. After an absence of over 50 years, the water voles have now spread across one side of the lake as part of a National Trust plan to restore wildlife in the Yorkshire Dales.

"They are already changing the look of the tarn-side streams," explains ranger Roisin Black. "The banks used to be straight-sided, almost like canals. By burrowing into them, the voles have created much more natural-looking streams with shady pools, which should provide really good habitats for invertebrates and small fish."

The animals also provide an important food source for struggling predators like otters and barn owls. By grazing the river banks, they create a variety of vegetation heights so that rare plants are able to compete.

In May 2019 the National Trust introduced two Exmoor ponies to the Yorkshire Dales for the first time at Malham Tarn. Assessment of the surrounding fen and mossland in association with Natural England revealed that the habitat was in good condition but there were concerns that invasive plants could take over if left unchecked.

"We are working towards a more natural landscape, which does more things for more people, that works for the long term, and yet remains unmistakably the Yorkshire Dales," says National Trust ecologist Fran Graham. "We decided on Exmoor ponies as the best solution to help with our conservation management of the site. They are hardy creatures, well adapted to wetland, and can graze throughout the year."

Britain's oldest breed of native pony is thought to differ little from its wild counterparts, who roamed the countryside thousands of years ago. The new arrivals were supplied by the Moorland Mousie Trust charity, which promotes and protects the critically endangered breed. Over 500 surplus Exmoor colt foals have been rehomed with families or as conservation grazers, including at the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Askham Bog nature reserve near York.

It is hoped that they will selectively graze plant species such as common reed and willow at Malham, enabling habitats of European importance on the Site of Special Scientific Interest to flourish. If this trial project is successful, more ponies will be introduced.



"Many rare breeds of domestic animals, such as upland short-horned dairy cattle, might be more productive on so-called marginal land than those that have become more popular in recent years," adds Tony Serjeant. "Those that can be left on the hill for long periods in winter without the need for housing or supplementary feeding, like Belted Galloways, are surely a 'plus' in terms of hill farm economics, let alone conservation."

Friends of the Dales business members Fiona and Chris Clark are flying the flag for a return to traditional breeds. A drastic reduction in livestock numbers, together with the introduction of a small herd of rare White Shorthorn cattle, has brought both economic and environmental benefits at Nethergill Farm, Oughtershaw.

"We suddenly realised that the less stock we had, the more money we made," says Chris. "But we have never believed that there is a conflict between farming, conservation and sustainability."

But would such initiatives ever work on a grand scale in the national park, given that it has a population of over 23,500, and 95% of it is in private ownership? Who would want to sweep away much-loved landscapes that have been shaped by millennia of human activity? And does anyone really know what the Yorkshire Dales looked like before the arrival of the first farmers, anyway?

"We used to be told that the natural 'climax' vegetation of the UK would be coast-to-coast, closed-canopy woodland, with only the very tops of our mountains devoid of dense tree cover," says Tony Serjeant. "Current thinking is that after the ice ages, our 'woods' would have looked more like the African savannah because of the presence of many large, grazing animals. Whichever version you prefer, the short answer seems to me to be that a landscape with more trees and climate change will play a profound role in deciding what kind of vegetation can survive."

"All the habitats that we now have in the Dales, including hay meadows, are to some extent 'man-made'. Even vertical cliffs and scree slopes are influenced by human activities like aerial nitrogen deposition."

"The Yorkshire Dales Management Plan has set a target of establishing at least one landscape-scale nature recovery area in the national park by 2021. Clearly there is a possible link with the concept of rewilding, but I would see it as a tool towards one end of a spectrum of measures one might take to reverse biodiversity decline."

Informal guided walks and talks giving opportunities to view conservation grazing by Exmoor ponies at Malham will take place from 11:00am – 12 noon and 2:00 – 3:00pm on Tuesday 30 July. Telephone 01729 830416 for details.

Friends of the Dales and a Green Transport Revolution



The World of James Herriot DalesBus 857 at Castle Bolton.
Courtesy of Colin Speakman

If anyone were to ask what difference Friends of the Dales (Yorkshire Dales Society) has made to the life in the Yorkshire Dales over the last 38 years, there is no better answer than public transport.

In 1981, the celebrated Settle-Carlisle line was marked for closure, and had only a couple of non-stop trains each way each day, plus a monthly summer weekend Dales Rail service run by the national park and West Yorkshire PTE. DalesBus was a commercial network from Harrogate and Leeds, with limited summer Sunday services in Wharfedale, Malhamdale and Wensleydale. Weekday buses were in severe decline.

The fledging Yorkshire Dales Society arranged a seminar at Bolton Abbey in 1982. It was attended by more than 50 people, including local MP, John Watson, National Park Officer Richard Harvey, and soon-to-be-champion of the Settle-Carlisle line, James Towler. This was the first step of a quiet transport revolution in the Dales, leading to the reopening of local stations on the Settle-Carlisle line in 1986, and the decision in 1989 to save the line as a major regional transport link and heritage attraction.

Our work didn't end there. In the mid-1980s, we pioneered charter bus services on winter Sundays, using Pride of the Dales buses to bring walkers to Upper Wharfedale, and a "Village Minibus" project between Garsdale Station and Hawes – precursor of what is now the highly successful Little White Bus network.

In 1996, the society helped set up the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group (now Friends of DalesBus) to bring together regular users of bus services in the Yorkshire Dales, both locals and visitors, to campaign for "accessible and affordable public transport" throughout the Dales. This included publicity to raise awareness of local bus services and lobbying the national park and local authorities to support these services.

When the popular 803 bus from Leeds to Wensleydale was cut in 2005, YDPTUG took the radical step of chartering buses from the bus company to fill the gap.

Realising that this was a somewhat risky financial venture, the Yorkshire Dales Society again stepped in 2007 and set up Britain's first-ever volunteer-run social enterprise devoted to the operation of visitor bus services – the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company. This was to avoid the society becoming tangled up with bus management matters by creating a semi-independent body, but giving the charity a single controlling share. With its own independent board normally including at least one Yorkshire Dales Society trustee, this combined commercial flexibility with overall control to ensure the D&BCIC met its objects. This has enabled many more people to access and enjoy the Yorkshire Dales in an environmentally friendly way. It has also given local people in the Dales a much-valued Sunday bus service at a time when North Yorkshire County Council had withdrawn all support for Sunday travel.

Starting with just two services, a weekly bus between Skipton, Ilkley and Bolton Abbey and a monthly service to Malham, each year D&BCIC has added further services to the network. Fourteen fully integrated Sunday DalesBus services, from Leeds, Wakefield, Lancaster and York, now serve almost every part of the Yorkshire Dales and the Forest of Bowland. Over 30,000 passenger journeys per year are carried at affordable fares. Multi-operator ticketing is available, and many bus services meet trains on the Settle-Carlisle line with carefully timed connections (details at www.dalesbus.org).

No other UK national park or AONB enjoys anything like the integrated network of DalesBus. We even have a clone – Moorsbus CIC – who have successfully revived the Moorsbus network on the North York Moors.

Despite many generous grants and donations (including a much-valued grant of £2,000 from Friends of the Dales, and £1,800 from the Sikh community in Bradford to help people from the inner city have access to the direct Saturday 74 bus service to Bolton Abbey and Grassington), retaining the DalesBus network remains a major challenge as public-sector financial cuts become extreme.

The D&BCIC will continue to work with Friends of the Dales to ensure that DalesBus – the green transport revolution in the Yorkshire Dales – survives and flourishes.

Colin Speakman, Vice President, Friends of the Dales

See details of summer 2019's DalesBus services on the back cover.



The cheque to support DalesBus 74 being presented by Chairman Board of Bradford Gurdwaras Mr Parvinder Singh and Vice President Mr Tarsem Singh to the Friends of the Dales, Grassington, May 2019.
Courtesy of Paul Chattwood

Allan Butterfield

A Tribute



Allan Butterfield at Gaping Gill.
Courtesy of Ian Metcalf

Allan Butterfield, who died in April 2019 aged 79, was a remarkable man. Born in Glusburn, he had an enduring passion for the Yorkshire Dales, becoming a lifelong member of Cross Hills Naturalists and Craven Pothole Club – in 2004 becoming its president. It was with Cross Hills Naturalists that Allan first started going to the Dales and beyond, learning about the natural environment, Dales history, geology, botany and his abiding passion, industrial archaeology.

Largely self-taught, Allan was thirsty to discover more about history and the local environment. In his 20s, he met and became a close associate of the founder of industrial archaeology in Britain, Dr Arthur Raistrick, of Linton, near Grassington. Raistrick, a president of the Ramblers, early member of the National Park Committee, and founder member of the Yorkshire Dales Society (now Friends of the Dales), was one of the great historians of the Dales. He encouraged Allan and his colleagues to form the Earby Mines Research Group.

They spent their time researching and recording the vanishing remains of the Dales lead mine industry, which had once been the dominant industrial activity in Wharfedale, Upper Nidderdale, Swaledale and parts of Wensleydale. They worked to restore remains as monuments to this vanished industrial age – flues, crushing floors, peat stores, engine houses, buddles, bouse teams and smelt mill chimneys.

Under the direction of “Doc” Raistrick, Research Group members – known as the Earby Gang – would be seen out in wilder parts of Swaledale or on Grassington Moor, with “a few bags of cement”. If you asked them why they were doing this tough work, weekend after weekend, they would reply that if they didn’t save their heritage, no-one else would.

A notable example is the restored smelt mill chimney on Grassington Moor. Dr Raistrick once recalled how the Earby Gang tested the old flue system by burning a couple of tyres in the flues – with such success that black smoke coming from the chimney could be seen for miles. The fire brigade was called, but Doc and the Earby Gang were long gone when the fire engine arrived.

Many artefacts too precious to leave on site for the weather and vandals to destroy were collected and catalogued and taken to Earby Mines Museum, housed in the old grammar school in Earby. The Yorkshire Dales Society visited the museum for fascinating talks by Allan and his colleagues. He had a distinctive lecturing style, invariably wearing his battered hat.

Falling visitor numbers, rising costs and the infirmities of old age caused the Earby Mines Museum to close in 2015. Allan and his colleagues persuaded the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority’s Dales Countryside Museum

in Hawes to accept 860 objects from this nationally important collection. It is now being housed in expanded premises, thanks to a £90,000 Heritage lottery grant and generous donations from the National Park Authority as well as from several individuals and groups. The prize exhibits are the Providence Mill waterwheel and the double-roller ore crusher from Kettlewell, the finest surviving example of its kind in the country.

Allan had been an active member of the Yorkshire Dales Society since its beginning, giving talks and supporting our campaigns. He was a major donor to our Millennium Bench, near Grassington National Park Centre, in memory of Dr Raistrick, and also became one of our first life members.

One afternoon, about 10 years ago, our doorbell rang. Allan, wearing his usual battered hat, was standing at the door. He wanted to be a life member. He pressed £200 in £20 notes into my hand and asked, “Will that do?” It certainly would. Who could be more appropriate as a new life member than someone as passionate and knowledgeable about the Yorkshire Dales as Allan Butterfield?

But maybe the most enduring memorial to Allan and the Earby Gang is found high on Grassington Moor – the great smelt mill chimney, a huge landmark and symbol of a long-vanished industry – but whose memory is preserved and through the dedication of people like Allan Butterfield.

Colin Speakman,
Vice President,
Friends of the Dales

Join us for a walk around Yarnbury Moor, including views of the chimney that Allan and his colleagues restored, on Friday 19 July 2019 – see page 19.



Paying Farmers by Results

A New National Pilot Scheme in the Dales

The core of the “payment by results” approach is to reward farmers for land management on the basis of results achieved. Under this scheme, they do not have to follow management prescriptions such as closing their meadows on a specific date or following set stocking rates. Instead they are free to manage their land as they see fit, in order to achieve objectives and results, and consequently payment. It puts them back in control.

There have been many results-based approaches in Europe over the past 20 years, but none have been incorporated into a mainstream agri-environment scheme. In 2014, the EU put out calls for pilot projects. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) put in a joint proposal with Natural England (NE). This bid was successful and secured a budget of 0.5 million Euros for a national pilot project starting in 2016 and running for three years.

This pilot is split into two areas. The upland grassland pilot in Yorkshire is focused on species-rich meadows and breeding wader habitats. This project is delivered by local NE staff and the YDNPA Farm Conservation Team. Together they have a history of working with Dales farmers on all aspects of farm management, including environmentally friendly farming. The arable pilot is based on sites in East Anglia.

Engaging farmers from the start was seen as an essential element and the Northern Upland Chain (NUC) Higher Nature Value Farming (HNVF) working group was set up as the main vehicle for farmer involvement in the project. One of the main criteria was that the scheme had to be simple to administer and fulfil.

Deciding on where to run the trial was not difficult. Wensleydale was chosen as farmers were coming out of their current agri-environment schemes, which enabled them to take part. The dale also has a large percentage of priority habitats and species – these needed to be easy to identify and survey; present for a significant period; within the farmer’s control; and sensitive to management change.

Breeding wader habitat was chosen because at present, 53 European species (10%) are of global conservation concern and are on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. This includes the Eurasian Curlew and the Northern Lapwing – both classified as Near Threatened. Survey work has shown that nationally important numbers of breeding lapwing and curlew are found in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. While the UK trend for these two species is declining, the status in the Dales is stable.

Upland hay meadows have a similarly worrying story, and are one of the rarest grassland habitats in the UK. The rate of decline has been severe, with over 98% of UK hay meadows already lost to agricultural intensification. Upland hay meadows are characterised by species including sweet vernal-grass, wood crane’s-bill, pignut, great burnet and lady’s mantles. They provide an important feeding habitat for a range of bird and insect life.

Nineteen farmers were recruited in Wensleydale, bringing 36ha of meadows and 152ha of breeding wader habitat into the project. In the first year, assessments of the habitats were carried out between

advisers and farmers. The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust was involved in meadow-restoration technique training, which some farmers have successfully applied to their meadows. Most were keen to engage in the training and said they had benefitted from taking part. They were asked to survey their land every year and send in the results. The payment structure in this pilot was based on a sliding scale, so the better the result, the higher the payment.

By the end of the project, 93% of farmers had actively worked to improve their score. On average, four new management actions were implemented to achieve good results. These included meadow seed introduction, liming soil, weed control and fertiliser reduction. And for breeding wader habitat: scrape creation, rush control, blocking drains and reintroduction of cattle grazing.

Predictably there were instances when the farmer and adviser results and scores differed. In these instances, they discussed survey results and compared outcomes together, and a negotiated decision was made on the final score. This approach has proved a diplomatic method for settling score discrepancies.

The project was centred on farmer attitudes, so surveys were undertaken to capture their perception of this new approach. The survey at the outset asked questions relating to current understanding of what we were asking them to do, their skills and confidence levels. A final follow-up survey asked what they liked about the project, and whether anything needed amending.

Here are a few of the results



Farmer Quotes – Presentation Graphic Courtesy of YDNPA

The project has been extended for another two years, with funding from DEFRA, as part of the new Environmental Land Management trials that will influence the future of UK agri-environment schemes post CAP and Brexit. All the project farmers have volunteered to carry on and most have put in extra land, which shows that this approach is working, both for them and the environment.

Jane Le Cocq, Farm Conservation Adviser, YDNPA

The Hills Are Alive...

The sounds of living in the Dales are many, varied and often majestic, whether from nature, such as the haunting warbling of the curlew, or man-made, like the booming of the local brass band. Many are as we expect – the crashing of the waterfall in spate or the piping of the oystercatcher returning to breed high on the moors. Others may take us by surprise when we first hear them – the mew of the buzzard or the low-pitched buzz of a rackett.

Yes, a rackett – with two “ts” – a medieval musical instrument, which is one of many played by the hugely talented group of musicians who call themselves Cornucopia and are based in Sedbergh. They play ancient instruments for their own enjoyment, and increasingly for the enjoyment of others, as at their concert in Dent this spring. **Roger Bush** of Cornucopia explains more about the group, its history and members, as well as the weirdly named instruments they play with so much skill.

“Cornucopia is Sedbergh’s early music group, formed in 2010 and playing music from the medieval and Renaissance periods on replica instruments from the time. There are now six players in the group: Judith and Roger Bush, Dorcas Thomas, Jenny Hildrew, Denise

Williamson and Stuart Manger. We sadly lost a valuable member, Dorcas’s husband, Richard, on Christmas Eve last year.

“Because of the nature of the music we play, many different and strange instruments are involved, which we have all had to apply ourselves to learning. Five of us play in the Sedbergh Orchestra on the standard modern instruments – clarinet, French horn, double bass and bassoon – but our early instruments are a different ball game altogether and include a set of crumhorns (bass to soprano), a set of gemshorns (bass to soprano), recorders (bass to soprano and garklein), a set of shawms (tenor to alto), sackbuts, cornetto, lizzard, rauschpfeife, rackett, bowed psalteries, harp, hurdy-gurdy, various bagpipes, sordune, chalumeaux, curtal, violin, rommelpot and a range of percussion instruments.

“These are mostly made by British craftsmen, and based on instruments preserved in museums. Several crumhorns were recovered from The Mary Rose when it was raised from the seabed in 1982.

“We play and sing music from a wide range of European sources between the 12th and 17th centuries. The musical instruments existing during this period were completely lacking in the sophisticated and technological devices that modern orchestral instruments and their players enjoy. Instead of ergonomically designed key mechanisms, players of early wind instruments simply use their fingers to cover the holes. The double reeds (imagine blowing on the end of a flattened straw) on a shawm or crumhorn tend to be rather unstable in terms of tone and pitch.

Great care has to be taken after switching from such a ‘high-pressure’ instrument to a ‘low-pressure’ recorder or gemshorn and vice versa.

“Fortunately, all of the wind instruments are fingered more or less the same way – the more holes you cover down the instrument, the lower the pitch of the note. It’s the ‘more or less’ that can be problematic – remembering the small differences between instruments. Many of them have a very limited range of just an octave (eight notes). The reed instruments take a lot more effort to blow than their modern descendants (oboe, clarinet and bassoon) so are very tiring to play for more than a few minutes at a time.”

The bizarrely named sackbut is the ancestor of the trombone but with a narrower bore and smaller flared bell. The name ‘rackett’ has nothing to do with the weird sound of the instrument and its derivation is not really known. Shawms go back thousands of years and are frequently mentioned in the Old Testament, as are psalteries.

Playing the instruments is not the only challenge faced by the group as, although there is a vast amount of early music published, much of it not very interesting, says Roger. “We try to choose mostly bright, cheerful and tuneful music and select the most appropriate of our instruments to perform it. As a result, our concerts consist of short pieces demonstrating a wide variety of completely unfamiliar sounds (unless you’ve already been to one). Our original intention was simply to play early music for our own pleasure, but word got around and we find ourselves being asked to give or participate in various local concerts and events.”

Early music is very popular now all over the world. There’s an Early Music Show on Radio 3 every Sunday, although this tends to err towards the Baroque period. Many cities have a group of ‘Waits’, York Waits being the most famous. There are many craftsmen making replica instruments and Cornucopia buy most of theirs from the Early Music Shop in Saltaire or a smaller branch in London.

If you are interested in hearing for yourself the somewhat bizarre but wonderful sounds made by the many instruments of medieval music, look out for a performance by Cornucopia somewhere in the Dales or go to the ‘Medieval Music in the Dales’ annual festival at Castle Bolton from 6th–8th September 2019, when Bolton Castle comes to life with concerts, workshops, instrument makers, medieval crafts and a great deal of informal music making. Prepare to be surprised – just as when you heard the first mew of a buzzard soaring overhead.

Tim Hancock, Trustee, Friend of the Dales



Cornucopia's instruments. Courtesy of Roger Bush



Corinne Pluchino (right) Chief Executive, Campaign for National Parks with CNP's President, Caroline Quentin, on Exmoor.



Corinne Pluchino, Chief Executive, Campaign for National Parks, believes that together we can ensure the future of the national parks is a bright one.

My last trip to the Yorkshire Dales National Park was in the early spring three years ago. I was visiting family friends, who for many years had lived on Ilkley Moor and had recently moved to Skipton. We went to Bolton Abbey, and visited the Priory Church and the ruins, before walking alongside the River Wharfe. It was a damp day, and the sunshine had not yet started to warm in preparation for the summer, but even so the landscape was

already a rich mass of different shades of green, and the stone angles of the abbey were highlighted by the pale grey sky.

When I made that visit, I had no concept that three years later I would be chief executive of Campaign for National Parks (CNP). I have visited eight of the 13 national parks in England and Wales and each one has made a profound impression on me. I therefore feel immensely privileged that I now have the opportunity to play a part in making the case for their protection, enhancement and promotion, and the chance to work with all the national parks societies that are so dedicated to each individual park, such as the Friends of the Dales.

I have loved the natural world from a very early age. Trying to identify butterflies and birds and watching the seasons change was always part of my childhood. Another event also made a profound impression on me: Sir David Attenborough's *Life on Earth*, which was first broadcast in 1979. I remember in particular the final episode, in which Sir David highlighted the impact that human beings were having on the earth, and the need to recognise the responsibilities we have as a result, both to the natural world and to each other.

This strength of feeling has remained with me throughout my life and encouraged me to support conservation organisations in my spare time, most recently as a trustee of CPRE, while I developed my career in other areas. After initial roles in the House of Commons and local government, I moved to the commercial sector for 15 years, where I specialised in communications, public affairs and income generation. I then fulfilled a long-held ambition to move to the charitable sector, first at Marie Curie and then at SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, where I had overall responsibility for marketing, communications and fundraising.

However, my love of the natural world remained constant, and I increasingly thought about how I could bring my professional background and personal passion together. I decided to study for an MSc in Environment, Politics and Society, and shortly afterwards was delighted to have the chance to join Campaign for National Parks. I hope that my diverse experience will bring a new perspective as we prepare for the next phase of the organisation's development, and will help us to expand our work and increase our impact.

An absolute priority for me is to get out and talk to CNP's member organisations about the issues you are facing on the ground. I am delighted to have met Mark Corner, Chair of Friends of the Dales, and have spoken at length to Ann Shadrake, Executive Director. A number of themes are already clear from these discussions. Although each park is truly unique in its natural and cultural heritage, nearly all feel under increasing pressure from inappropriate development, increasing traffic and intensive land use, with the inevitable impact on tranquillity, landscape and local wildlife. The stresses on local

communities, and the challenges of sustaining local park societies, are also mentioned regularly.

CNP will continue to support the park societies as much as we can to address these issues at local and national level. I am very pleased, for example, that CNP was able to support the Friends of the Dales' successful opposition to the development of the Hellifield Wetlands. This kind of collaborative working is essential if we are to fight the multiple and diverse threats facing the Yorkshire Dales and the other national parks.

These challenges are, of course, developing against a backdrop of unprecedented volatility in politics and policy making, which offers both immense opportunities and risks that will have long-term impacts on the national parks. Just one example is the Agriculture Bill, currently progressing through Parliament, which will shape the future of farm payments and incentives in England after Brexit. It is a unique opportunity to ensure that public money is used to support land managers to deliver public goods and it is essential that our voice is heard during these debates. There are many other issues where we are also focusing our efforts, including the Environment Bill, the Glover Review of national parks and AONBs, and a sustainable future for the national parks in Wales.

Given the urgency for action, I am very keen to ensure our communications are as compelling and persuasive as possible. Every sector is prone to speaking its own language and I am passionate about using clear, succinct communications to encourage more people to engage with the parks and join our movement to protect and sustain them. I would also like to develop our work with the park societies further, including Friends of the Dales, to share information and skills, and explore new ways of campaigning together to increase our impact and build wider support for the national parks.

The Yorkshire Dales is not only extraordinarily beautiful, it is a living landscape, full of people, history and adventure. As I start my own story at Campaign for National Parks, I could not be more proud to be working to defend and improve this national park, and to be doing it in partnership with the Friends of the Dales.

Clapham School is Saved

Friends of the Dales campaigns for the protection and enhancement of the Dales, and promotes the social and economic well being of the local communities. As Mark Corner, Chair, reports: We were very concerned that the closure of Clapham Primary School would reduce the sustainability of its local community.

We recognise the challenge of low pupil numbers, but to close the school at a time when significant efforts are being made to reverse the decline in the number of younger people living in the Yorkshire Dales National Park would have been a regrettable decision.

Recently, the leaders of the four constituent district councils and the National Park Authority (see page 4) have agreed an objective in the National Park Management Plan 2019-2024 to 'Undertake a five-year programme of measures to promote the national park as a place to live for younger, working-age households (18-44) to help halt the decline in their numbers.'

There are already positive developments in Clapham with the delivery of new housing. We believe that NYCC is right to have confidence that this plan will deliver. There was a danger that if the potential number of school-age children in the catchment grows as a result of these efforts, and the school had then closed, we would have a capacity problem and the ability to attract young families to the area will be damaged. We would be 'shooting ourselves in the foot'.

We strongly recommended that the decision on the future of the school was put on hold for at least 12 months, and so were delighted to hear that the Council had decided to keep it open.

Clapham C of E Primary School.
Courtesy of Mark Corner



Landscapes and Art



Crummackdale: Watercolour

When I moved up to the Dales from London in the 1980s, to become a landscape conservation officer at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, I thought I would give it my best for a few years, then move on from the Dales. But here I am, 33 years later, still loving living in the area.

What do I love about it? Apart from making lots of friends, and now feeling bedded in to so many activities locally, it's the landscape that holds me. I love the way that so much can be seen simply by looking – the different habitats arising from underlying geology, soils and climate, and the subsequent management of the land over centuries. I can look as an ecologist, an historian, a geologist, an artist – it is such a rich environment. I can see historic features, from lynchets to lead mines; the ways in which settlements follow geology as well as cultural factors, such as the dispersed homesteads of the north and west, the tight-knit villages with adjacent open fields in the south and east, settlements at river crossing points.

It intrigues me that much of it is an industrial landscape, with evidence of the mines and heaps of lead waste following the lead veins, and the field patterns arising from the miners' smallholdings. There is logic to where different land uses occur – meadows on the fertile valley soils, pastures on side slopes, with trees clinging on to steep slopes, and above them all the common grazing of the open moors.

Then, of course, there is the network of drystone walls punctuated by small field barns, and the farmsteads and hamlets all unified by being built of the same uncompromising stone. As well as being such a fascinating landscape to 'read', it is also a very aesthetic and visually pleasing landscape.

What I especially like in the Dales is the way in which one can see the 'bones' of the landscape, the hard plateaus of hard

grit on the hilltops, the stepped slopes of the Yoredale series, the fantastic forms of limestone pavements, the gritty banks of the rivers. And from the fells one gets such expansive views of the dales that it's almost like flying. The connections between the physical geography and what has arisen over time are so clear, so legible. My other favourite place is the mainland of Greece, where the same connections between man's activities and the underlying geology are so clear.

Skin of the Earth: Drawing, mixed media





Day Landscape: Collagraph

Walking and looking are thus key activities for me, and I combine that with sketching – the views, the rocks, the gnarled trees. All this is absorbed and translated into my artwork. Rather than re-presenting Dales views, I create images based on geomorphological processes, or imaginary landscapes, often using the aerial view, which reveals connections. I've been exploring the use of collagraph prints to give visual form to my ideas, as well as mixed-media drawing using various materials, overlaying and scraping away, in some way replicating the geological and cultural processes that go to form landscapes.

During the month of July, I am exhibiting works on the theme of the "Skin of the Earth" at South Square Centre in Thornton, west of Bradford.

Nancy Stedman

Nancy is a trustee of Friends of the Dales and is currently exhibiting "Skin of the Earth" at Unit 9, South Square Centre, Thornton BD13 3LD <http://southsquarecentre.co.uk> Open 12 noon – 3:00pm every day except Mondays, 6 – 28 July.

Handbell Ringers in the Dales

Anyone in the vicinity of Grassington Town Hall on Saturday 11th May this year would have been curious to see huge cases and sheets of foam rubber being wheeled and carried in. What strange activity was afoot? It was the HRGB [Handbell Ringers of Great Britain] Spring Rally and AGM for the north-east region. Twelve handbell ringing teams had travelled from as far afield as Northumberland, Hull and Sheffield and as nearby as Grassington and Gargrave. Individual teams played their own solo pieces. The wide variety included classical favourites such as the "Tritsch Tratsch Polka" by Johann Strauss, lullabies from the Isle of Man and Ireland, and a Japanese tune celebrating the cherry blossom season. These were interspersed with two pieces played by all the ringers, Handel's "Gigue" and a traditional Scottish tune, "The Dark Island".

During the event, a youth group came from Clifton in York. They played superbly! Their ages ranged from eight years old up to Scouts learning handbell ringing as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. The youngest had to stand on a box to ring. They had been studying through HRGB's Crescendo scheme (a free programme for young ringers in particular) and were presented with certificates during the afternoon.

Handbell ringing requires intense concentration so there were breaks for coffee and homemade cakes, a time for catching up with old friends not seen since the previous rally. Many of our visitors enjoyed exploring the town during the lunch break.

Two local Dales based teams need more ringers – you can contact me via Ann Shadrake at the Friends of the Dales office. You would be welcome to come along to a practice. There are a few basic techniques and you'll soon be enjoying this unique form of music making. The Grassington team practice Mondays (1.45–3:30 pm, Methodist Chapel) and the Gargrave team on Wednesdays (2:00–3:45 pm, St Andrew's Church). For more information on handbell ringing generally, see www.hrgb.org.uk.

Cynthia Hardyman, member of Friends of the Dales

Gargrave ringers practising in St Andrew's Church, Gargrave. Courtesy of Cynthia Hardyman.



Vacancy for a Hon Treasurer

Graham Yule, our current Honorary Treasurer, will step down at our September AGM. This decision is for practical reasons as Graham and his wife Sue (who has supported us greatly by proofreading this magazine) are moving south to be closer to their family and grandchildren.

So we have a vacancy for a Treasurer to join our Council as a Trustee. While we have a strong team of Trustees (and a new incoming Chair, see article on page 5), none has the experience and skills to act as our Treasurer and to ensure that the Council carries out its financial responsibilities.

So we are keen to find a new Treasurer, either from among our current membership or someone who is not yet a member but has a genuine interest in our charity's aims.

Anyone with a professional background in finance or accounting is well equipped for this role. However, many other people will have the relevant financial management experience. For example, someone with:

- Experience of managing a small business or voluntary organisation;
- Management-level experience in the commercial, public or charity sector;
- Project management experience, including responsibility for budgets.

Our Treasurer is a Trustee, so sits on our Council alongside the other Trustees and is also a key member of our Finance and Governance Committee.

We have around 1,300 members. While there is year-on-year variation, our annual income is typically about £65,000, which means that we operate below the financial threshold for an audit. Our main sources of income are membership subscriptions, donations and legacies. While we aren't complacent, our finances are relatively stable.

To find out more about becoming our next Honorary Treasurer, including further information about the time commitment and key activities, please contact Ann Shadrake, Executive Director.

Marion Temple, Chair of Finance and Governance Committee

We welcome our newest Business Member, YorkshireNet.

"YorkshireNet is THE guide to Yorkshire on the internet. England's premier county for visitors, Yorkshire makes a great destination for country lovers, city visitors, and coastal watchers alike. Since 1995, this website from YorkshireNet has provided the information to help you enjoy your Yorkshire visit".



A Great Day Out

"Fantastic day out with a group of very social people. Great to explore new routes and very knowledgeable input by Bernard Peel on local points of interest." Feedback from David Seaward from the pub walk on 31 May 2019. Join Bernard on 19 July 2019 to explore Grassington Moor. See details on page 19.



Pub walk at Conistone May 2019. Courtesy of Ann Shadrake

Friends of the Dales Events Categories

An enjoyable mix of events designed with something for everyone. All welcome – members and non-members, families, friends and visitors. You could book an overnight stay in the area or visit a local business member (some offer discounts).

Charges

Events are free to members (unless part of a chargeable festival programme etc). Small charge to non-members for talks (£3).

What to bring

For outdoor events – whatever the forecast – always come well equipped with boots/outdoor clothing and refreshments. Well-behaved dogs on short leads welcome on many walks – look for the paw print symbol 🐾. For walks and visits always bring packed lunch or use local pub/café where indicated.

Transport

We provide details of public transport known at the time of going to press. Always check www.dalesbus.org and www.nationalrail.co.uk We endeavour to car share – to offer or request a lift contact me in the lead up to that event.

Booking

Most events are offered on a 'just turn up' basis with no need to book – but it really helps if you can let me know if you hope to attend so I can gauge numbers. Events will go ahead unless very bad weather etc. We have only cancelled two events in the last five years (snow and floods). See www.friendsofthedales.org.uk and Facebook for last-minute updates or ring/email me.

Register an interest in attending/queries:
ann.shadrake@friendsofthedales.org.uk
 or 01756 749400

i Dales Insights

Afternoon/evening talk (with a cuppa) usually teamed with an optional easy/moderate morning walk. Wide range of Dales themes with knowledgeable leaders and speakers.

C Classic Countryside

Half-day (easy) to full-day (moderate) sociable and distinctive walks with added 'something special!' Experienced leaders – steady pace with breaks/picnic stop.

V Vibrant Communities

Bespoke 'one-off' guided tour of Dales village/town devised by local members and community. Easy morning and afternoon walks/visits.

f Focus on the Dales

Full-day themed visit exploring a Dales topic e.g. farming, quarrying, tourism, community action. Soak up knowledge from opinion leaders - with lively debate.

Friday, 19 July 2019


C Medium  

Yarnbury Circular

Friends of the Dales regular volunteer Bernard Peel will lead a guided walk of about six miles around the lead mines of Yarnbury and Grassington Moor, supported by Individual Inns.

10:00am Meet at the The Fountaine Inn at Linton for a welcome breakfast of bacon roll (V alternative) and tea/coffee.

10:45am prompt Short drive (share cars) to park on roadside at Yarnbury.

11:00am Walk through the lead mining remains including splendid views of the smelt mill flue and chimney (restoration led by the late Allan Butterfield, see page 11) to Blea Beck Dams. Mainly moorland tracks with some rougher paths across the open access area. Approx 3.5 hours (leisurely pace). Boots essential. Pack a drink and warm, waterproof layers.  Well-behaved dogs on short leads welcome.


3:00pm approx Arrive back at the pub for a superb two-course hot lunch.

Book via the pub on 01756 752210 or info@fountaineinnatinton.co.uk. £15 is payable to the pub on the day. Contact Bernard on 01756 749400 or office@yds.org.uk for more details of the route if wish

Saturday, 27 July 2019

C Medium  

Barbon – Casterton Round

Join volunteer Ken Humphris for a circular walk of approx eight miles from Barbon. The walk takes in a very old packhorse bridge, a section along the River Lune, views of the Casterton and Barbon fells, part of a green lane with many "sheepfolds" by artist Andy Goldsworthy and views of several notable grand houses in the mid-Lune valley. Walking includes quiet roads, but mostly across fields/easy grassy tracks. This is sheep country, so well-behaved dogs on short leads only.  Many timber step stiles without 'dog gates'. Bring a picnic lunch. Ends around 2:30 – 3:00pm. Pub/café in village (The Churchmouse café was featured in issue 145 winter 2019).

Meet 10:30am at Barbon Village Hall car park, New Road, Barbon LA6 2LL. The Chairman of the village hall committee has kindly given us access to the hall toilets before the walk starts and permission to park. Donation box by main door. Please contact Ann at the office if you need or can offer a lift to Barbon.

Saturday, 3 August 2019

C Medium  

Dalesway 50th Anniversary Walk


The very first public walk on the Dales Way was organised by the West Riding branch of The Ramblers and took place on Sunday, 23 March 1969. Colin Speakman led 130 walkers along the first 12 miles of the brand-new long-distance trail from Ilkley to Burnsall, returning by bus. It was a great success. Organised by the Dales Way Association, this 50th-anniversary walk will again be led by Colin Speakman, who is also a vice president of Friends of the Dales.

Approx 6.5 miles. Return by vintage bus (tbc), small donation. Details nearer the time on www.dalesway.org or contact Ann at the office.

Sunday, 18 August 2019

C Medium  

Scar House Reservoir Circular

Bernard Peel will lead a 6.5-mile circular walk in the beautiful, remote and enclosed upper Nidd valley with its magnificent masonry dams of Scar House and Angram reservoirs. The remains of the navy village and Low Woodale will be visited. Bring picnic lunch. Well-behaved dogs on short leads welcome.  Approx 120m ascent but generally easy walking.

Meet 11:50am Scar House Reservoir car park (free) with toilets and cafe run by our business member, How Stean Gorge. Timed to meet Dalesbus 821 (Keighley 9:30am, Shipley 9:55am, Guiseley White Cross 10:05am, Otley 10:20am, Pateley Bridge 11:10am). Bus return 3:45pm from café, arrives Keighley 6:00pm. Check bus information nearer the time at www.dalesbus.org.uk. Contact Ann at the office re lifts.

Saturday, 21 September 2019

V

AGM 2019, Long Preston

Join us in the historic village of Long Preston for a short morning walk followed by the AGM in the afternoon. Guests also welcome. Many thanks to member Gillian Jones for suggesting Long Preston following our appeal for a venue in the spring issue.

10:30am Meet at Long Preston Village Hall. Local walk of about two miles to explore some of the fascinating heritage of the village. We hope to involve Long Preston Heritage Group in this part of the day (being confirmed). Please check with Ann at the office nearer the time if you want more details on the route etc. Regret no dogs except RAD. Boots advised. Ends approx 12:30pm. Please bring a packed lunch to eat in the village hall or outside if weather fine, two pubs in the village.

2:15pm prompt (convene 2:00pm please) AGM in Long Preston Village Hall. With a review of the year and the Treasurer's report plus all normal business. We will mark the very successful four-year term by Mark Corner as Chair, who is stepping down at this AGM, and welcome Bruce McLeod as Chair Elect. Full agenda and papers available on the website in September or from Ann. The AGM is a great chance to meet trustees, volunteers and other members, and find out more about the charity's achievements and plans. Preceded at 1:30pm by an informal meeting for ambassador volunteers (all welcome).

Long Preston Village Hall, The Green, Long Preston BD23 4NU. Free parking by arrangement at adjacent Long Preston Methodist Chapel. Train – Leeds departs 9:17am (or 12:18pm), arrives Long Preston 10:30am (or 1:15pm); return 4:34pm, arrives Leeds 5:39pm. Please check with train operator nearer the time. For lifts contact Ann at the office.



A short section of path beside the lovely River Lune will be enjoyed on our Barbondale walk. Courtesy of Ken Humphris.

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DalesBus Celebrates 70 Years of National Parks



It is 70 years since the introduction of 1949's National Park and Access to the Countryside Act. DalesBus, the network of weekend bus services to the Yorkshire Dales National Park, is marking the anniversary by operating several new and improved Sunday and bank holiday services to and through the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB.

Highlights for summer 2019 include:

- A new Saturday DalesBus 74 bus from the centre of Bradford to Bolton Abbey, Burnsall and Grassington, partly financed by the Bradford Sikh community to improve access to the Dales for people from all cultures and backgrounds (see page 10).
- A new circular, sightseeing DalesBus 857/830 through Wensleydale and Swaledale over Buttertubs Pass, providing access from urban Teesside, Lancashire and West Yorkshire.
- An improved DalesBus 821 service from Keighley and Otley to Upper Nidderdale, giving opportunity to those without cars to reach the footpaths and public access land of the popular Reservoir Country of Upper Nidderdale and the Washburn Valley.
- A new bus DalesBus 825 service from Harrogate linking to Brimham Rocks, Kirkby Malzeard and the village of Masham.
- A direct new service from Malham on DalesBus 881, meeting trains at Settle to serve Slaidburn in the Forest of Bowland AONB.
- A double-decker sightseeing bus 822 between York and Fountains Abbey, Grassington and Upper Wharfedale, crossing the Kidstone Pass to Hawes – offering magnificent panoramic sightseeing from the top deck.

Full details of all the Summer DalesBus service are given in the Summer Metro DalesBus timetable, available at bus and rail stations, libraries and main visitor and community centres throughout the region. All can be downloaded from www.dalesbus.org.

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PROTECT and help to safeguard the Dales

ENJOY the beauty and facilities of the Yorkshire Dales

Members receive a quarterly full-colour 20-page magazine and the opportunity to be present at a rolling programme of events. Contact and other details available on this page.

Views expressed in the Yorkshire Dales Review are not necessarily those of the Friends of the Dales.

For any contributions or comments concerning this publication, please contact:

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